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SUBJECT: Peru's Haiti Assistance

REF: LIMA 0116

¶1. Peru has sent three aircraft with humanitarian aid for Haiti. The presidential plane, carrying three cabinet members and the Chief of Peru's Armed Forces Joint Command, in addition to emergency relief aid cargo, landed in Haiti on January 14. Two additional aircraft (a Hercules C-130 and a Boeing 737) reportedly landed in Santo Domingo, bringing additional aid cargo as well as 18 medical personnel and a seven-person search and rescue team from the NGO RAPID. According to MFA sources and media reports, the three flights contained approximately 54 tons of humanitarian goods: medicine, non-perishable food, folding beds, mattresses, bed sheets, plastic barrels, tents, and galvanized corrugated sheet metal.

¶2. Additionally, 207 Peruvian MINUSTAH peacekeepers remain in country and are assisting with relief efforts. Half of the detachment was scheduled to rotate out of Haiti as the earthquake struck, and is instead scheduled to rotate today (January 22). Military officials have told the Embassy that the GOP is taking steps to increase the detachment by 120 additional security personnel, bringing the total number to about 327 peacekeepers.

¶3. Foreign Minister Jose Antonio Garcia Belaunde and UN PermRep Gonzalo Gutierrez will lead Peru's delegation to Montreal for the meeting on Haiti on January 25.

¶4. The Embassy is in close contact with the MFA, Peruvian armed forces, and INDECI, the Peruvian disaster relief agency, and will report any other significant earthquake relief updates via septel. Based on their experiences managing the 2007 Pisco, Peru earthquake, INDECI officials are cognizant of the potential to overwhelm relief coordinators on the ground and desire to coordinate relief activities with appropriate organizations. MFA officials have also told the Embassy the GOP deplores the efforts of certain other countries to politicize relief efforts.

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